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CIA-RDP81-00280R001300060114-7

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

TELETYPE INFORMATION REPORT

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TO: STATE, ARMY, NAVY, AIR, JCS, SECDEF, ~~DDI~~
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CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T		DISSEMINATION CONTROLS NOFORN		3014904
OUT - DATE - TIME - GROUP		1 NOVEMBER 1956		PRECEDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE
COUNTRY EAST GERMANY				50X1-HUM
SUBJECT UNREST AMONG STUDENTS				50X1-HUM

1. STUDENTS AT THE "HUMBOLDT" UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY RESTLESS DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS. GROUPS OF STUDENTS HAVE ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN POLAND AND HUNGARY. HOWEVER, LECTURES GO ON, AND OUTWARDLY THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE POLISH AND PARTICULARLY THE HUNGARIAN EVENTS.

2. STUDENTS HAVE NOTICED A NUMBER OF UNKNOWN PERSONS LOITERING AROUND THE UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS IN RECENT DAYS. THESE ARE PRESUMED TO BE STATE SECURITY AGENTS ASSIGNED THERE IN ORDER TO GIVE EARLY WARNING TO THE MINISTRY FOR STATE SECURITY IF THE TEMPER OF THE STUDENTS SHOWS SIGNS OF GETTING OUT OF HAND.

3. ON 27 OCTOBER THREE SMALL TYPEWRITTEN POSTERS APPEARED ON THE UNIVERSITY BULLETIN BOARDS PROTESTING AGAINST THE FAILURE OF THE EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE ADEQUATE OR ACCURATE COVERAGE OF THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN EVENTS. THE POSTERS MENTIONED THE CONFISCATION OF THE B.Z. AM ABEND, AND DEMANDED AN IMMEDIATE MASS

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MEETING WITH SED AND GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES SO THAT THE LATTER COULD EXPLAIN THEIR POSITION. THESE POSTERS WERE REMOVED BEFORE MANY STUDENTS SAW THEM.

4. AT 6:00 P.M. ON 29 OCTOBER THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD A MEETING OF ALL FDJ FACULTY SECRETARIES OR THEIR DEPUTIES AND OTHER PERSONS, INCLUDING DIETER KLEIN, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE FDJ HOCHSCHULGRUPPENLEITUNG, AND HANS MODROW, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE FDJ BEZIRKSLEITUNG BERLIN. KLEIN STATED THAT RESTLESSNESS APPARENT AMONG THE STUDENTS DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS HAD BEEN CAUSED BY THE WESTERN PRESS, AND THAT THE STUDENTS' DEMAND FOR INFORMATION HAD BEEN MET. SEVERAL OF THE FDJ SECRETARIES DENIED THIS, CITING THE CONFISCATION OF THE B.Z. AM ABEND AND POINTING OUT THAT THE EAST GERMAN PRESS HAD REPORTED THAT THE HUNGARIAN REBELLION HAD BEEN CRUSHED WITHOUT GIVING DETAILS OR EXPLAINING THE CAUSES OF THE REBELLION. KLEIN SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS, BUT THAT NO PUBLIC MEETING WOULD BE ALLOWED, SINCE IT MIGHT GET OUT OF HAND AND LEAD TO DEVELOPMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN HUNGARY, WHERE THE REVOLT HAD ALSO STARTED AMONG THE STUDENTS. MODROW LIKEWISE REJECTED ANY THOUGHT OF HOLDING A PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE STUDENTS UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS, STATING THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS ARE KNOWN TO BE READING THE WESTERN PRESS AND LISTENING TO THE WESTERN RADIO. HE CRITICIZED THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE DEMAND FOR A MEETING BY SEVERAL FDJ FUNCTIONARIES AND ASSERTED THAT THEY WERE TAKING THE SITUATION TOO SERIOUSLY. HE STATED THAT THE STUDENTS WERE ONLY ASKING TO BE INFORMED AS TO THE MEANING OF THE RECENT EVENTS, AND THAT THIS HAD BEEN EXPLAINED BY OTTO GROTEWOHL AND WALTER ULBRICHT IN THEIR SPEECHES ON 27 OCTOBER.

5. MODROW MENTIONED AN ARTICLE BY CHRISTA FRÖHLICH IN THE PARIS JOURNAL.

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WHICH SAID THAT THE FDJ NO LONGER HAS ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH THE STUDENTS, BUT IS IN EFFECT AN ORGANIZATION AGAINST THE STUDENTS. MODROW REJECTED THESE CHARGES, STATING THAT THE FDJ IS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION AND DOES NOT RECEIVE DIRECTIVES FROM THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HE SAID THAT STUDENTS AS SUCH DO NOT CONSTITUTE A DANGER, BUT THE DANGER COMES FROM THE EFFECT OF WESTERN AGITATION MEDIA.

6. ALTHOUGH MODROW TRIED TO START A DISCUSSION, HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE THE OTHER PERSONS PRESENT REFUSED TO COMMIT THEMSELVES IN VIEW OF THE APPARENT IMPOSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSING THE MATTER OBJECTIVELY.

7. MODROW ANNOUNCED A MEETING OF THE FDJ HOCHSCHULGRUPPE ON 31 OCTOBER, AT WHICH HE AND KLEIN WOULD EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. AFTER MODROW AND KLEIN LEFT THE ROOM, THE SECRETARIES CONTINUED THE DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDED THAT THE MEETING ON 31 OCTOBER WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE BECAUSE IT WOULD WITHOUT DOUBT MERELY ADOPT THE CURRENT SED LINE. THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID A PUBLIC MEETING OF ALL FDJ MEMBERS AT THE UNIVERSITY, SINCE OTHERWISE THE FDJ WOULD LOSE THE STUDENTS' CONFIDENCE ENTIRELY; THE FDJ SECRETARIES WILL HAVE TO DEMAND A PUBLIC MEETING, BECAUSE OTHERWISE THEY WILL BE FORCED INTO DISCUSSIONS WHICH THEY CANNOT COPE WITH. SEVERAL OF THE SECRETARIES STATED THAT THEY WOULD MAKE SURE THAT THE STUDENTS' DEMAND FOR A PUBLIC MEETING WOULD BECOME IRRESISTIBLE.

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END OF MESSAGE

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